

Independent School District Board Member
Pat Campos.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Peace Corps Week, in recognition of the Peace Corps on the 44th anniversary of its founding and of the thousands of volunteers who have done invaluable humanitarian service in countries throughout the world.

The 7,700 volunteers in the field today have left their families and friends in the United States to serve as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agriculture workers.

Leaving your comfort zone behind and plunging into work in another country and another culture is a great challenge. I would like to take this time to congratulate the current Peace Corps Volunteers from the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois. Shayne Bell, Heather Breneisen, Brehan Doud, Nina Elisseeu, Joshua Friedman, Ryan Giordano, Stacy Greco, Kelly Henshaw, Peter Hicks, Lucie Howe, Kate McCracken, James Norris, Stephanie Park, Kevin Rieder, Diane Sears, John Sears, Debra Stanislawski and Scott Wilhelm are serving in seventeen countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.

These eighteen of my constituents have joined the Peace Corps in support of three goals. The first two goals are to help provide interested countries with trained men and women and to promote a better understanding of Americans by people of other countries. In a time when the United States is taking an ever greater role in the international community, Peace Corps Volunteers present the best of what America can offer to the rest of the world.

When their time in the Peace Corps is complete, I look forward to those volunteers' return to the United States and Illinois' Eighth district to begin work on what could be the Peace Corps' most important goal: to promote a better understanding of other people and cultures by Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today to acknowledge the thousands of Americans who serve and have served as Peace Corps Volunteers. They are a great credit to our country, and we should applaud them.

HONORING CONESTOGA HIGH
SCHOOL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Conestoga High School of Berwyn, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

On March 5, 1954, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new senior high school in the Paoli Area High School System. This event was significant because the new and modern high school would be accommodating students from six different communities in Chester County, Pennsylvania and merging them into one, unified school. In an effort to involve the community in the creation of the new school, the school board decided to hold a local competition to name the school. In the end, a ninth grade student suggested the name "Conestoga" because the Old Conestoga Road passes through each of the six communities served by the school. Conestoga became its name to symbolize the connection of these communities.

Construction on the school continued throughout the summer and into the next year. On September 9, 1955, the Conestoga High School opened with a student enrollment of 549 and a faculty of 35. As the school continued to grow and flourish, along came the need for additional space to accommodate the students. In 1959, just four years after the original school was completed, 19 rooms were added to the building. After the completion of the new wing, student enrollment was at an all-time high of 1036.

During the next forty years, Conestoga High School would undergo many changes. In 1967, 20 additional rooms were added to the main building and, in 1981, the school's library was enlarged and named for Karl Zettelmoyer in recognition of his years as principal from 1957 to 1971. Conestoga continued this tradition of recognizing those who had served the school when a new gymnasium was constructed and named for Principal John C. Rittenmeyer.

Just recently, Conestoga has added fourteen general all-purpose classrooms and ten new science labs. The cafeteria was enlarged and modernized to meet the needs of the student body and the entire music area was reconfigured to house the growing interest in the Conestoga High School choir. In the family and consumer sciences lab, the kitchens were completely renovated and reconfigured and a new welcoming and spacious main lobby was built.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Conestoga High School. Throughout the past 50 years, the school has provided an invaluable exemplary educational service to its students and has contributed greatly to the community. Conestoga High School should be commended for its exceptional record of positive development of the moral, physical, and emotional well-being of the young men and women who have attended the school over the past 50 years.

HUNGARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO
COALITION EFFORTS IN IRAQ

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an excellent letter that I recently received from his Excellency

András Simonyi, Ambassador of Hungary to the United States, which provides specific detail of his country's support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hungary has been particularly supportive of U.S. military efforts in Iraq in implementing training programs for Iraqis and donating millions of dollars in necessary supplies. Such efforts have furthered U.S. objectives in Iraq, and contributed to efforts to bring peace and stability to the region.

Hungary was among the first countries to support Coalition efforts in Iraq, including the training of Free Iraqi Forces (FIF) in Tazsár, Hungary in Fall 2002 and the deployment of a transportation battalion of 300 troops to Iraq.

More recently, the Hungarian Government has decided to send 165 troops to the NATO Training and Implementation Mission in Iraq and donate 77 T72 tanks to the Iraqi army. These actions represent the broader goal of the Hungarian Government to support American efforts in Iraq. I urge all my colleagues to read this excellent and informative letter written from Ambassador Simonyi.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay tribute to my dear friend András Simonyi. He has been an outstanding representative of Hungary in the United States and has personally made an important contribution to the relations between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the letter of Ambassador Simonyi be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read it.

THE AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY,
Washington, March 1, 2005.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LANTOS: As I am sure that you might be interested, allow me summarize for you to the extent possible Hungary's contribution to the Iraqi stabilization process so far. As you well know, Hungary was among the first to support Coalition efforts in Iraq, including by training the Free Iraqi Forces (FIF) in Tazsár, Hungary in Fall 2002 and by deploying a 300-strong transportation battalion to Iraq who served in Al-Hillah. Recently the Hungarian Government decided to send 165 troops to the NATO Training and Implementation Mission in Iraq. Hungary donated 77 T72 tanks to the Iraqi Army. 14 high ranking officers are in Iraq to train Iraqi officers in command and control.

In March 2004 the Hungarian Government sent an aid supply of medical equipment to Basra, total value of appx. 300,000.00 USD.

Donation of 80 cardio-equipment to the Iraqi Ministry of Health in March 2004 for a total value of 1,000,000.00 USD and a training program for experts in 2005.

In October 2004 training of 20 experts in drink-water purification, waste-water and waste management.

Training program for the Iraqi Police for 2004-2005 for a value of 500,000.00 USD.

Training program for 25 Iraqi diplomats starting from March 2005 at Corvinus University.

Training program for Iraqi conductors starting from the first quarter of 2005 to form experts in the well-known Hungarian method to help the development of handicapped children.

Training program for 20 civil servants in Hungary for a period of 10 days in the field of privatization, small business promotion, and banking system in the first quarter of 2005.

50 day training program in Hungary for 20 Iraqi experts in the field of fresh-water fish-breeding.

Four-week training program for 10 Iraqi veterinarians in Hungary starting in the first semester of 2005.

Water management training for 10 Iraqi expert starting from the first semester of 2005.

Financial aid for the Iraqi elections.

Sincerely yours,

ANDRÁS SIMONYI.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CORY ZEBIAN FOR BEING SELECTED AS CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Cadet Cory Zebian, a Colleyville, Texas, resident, for his appointment to Chief Petty Officer of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. This honor follows years of work and dedication to this youth program, including the completion of regulation U.S. Navy courses, from Basic Military Regulations through Chief Petty Officer. CPO Zebian has shown superior qualities of leadership, patriotism, and expertise that have allowed him to achieve this accomplishment, which is awarded to less than 1/2 of 1% of the approximately 10,000 Naval Sea Cadets. I congratulate CPO Zebian on his significant feat.

CHINA'S ANTISECESSION LAW

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is expected that the People's Republic of China will enact its "anti-secession" law this March. Aimed at eventual reunification with Taiwan, this law will give China a legal basis to invade Taiwan. Clearly, this is a highly provocative law and will change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

With the enactment of this law China claims jurisdiction over Taiwan and threatens to use force against Taiwan if Taiwan is found not actively working toward eventual unification with China. China will be Taiwan's sole arbitrator of any dispute between the two.

Mr. Speaker, by enacting this law, China is also challenging the letter and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, which says that "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means" is "of grave concern to the United States." Indeed, any unilateral effort by the PRC to determine the future of Taiwan challenges America's will to defend the Taiwan Relations Act. We must let the Chinese know that our commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act is total and unwavering. We will not allow China to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

By imposing its form of government on the 23 million people of Taiwan, China tramples on the Taiwanese people's human rights and democratic ideals. Once again, we must not allow this to happen. In the Taiwan Relations Act we read, the "preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan are . . . reaffirmed as objectives of the United States." We must let China know that we take human rights and democratic ideals seriously.

It is vitally important that the Bush administration, the U.S. Congress and the international community voice opposition to China's proposed "anti-secession" law. It is a vicious law that will adversely affect Taiwan and the Pacific region. It will upset peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and bring economic ruin to the whole area.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in voicing my strong opposition to China's proposed "anti-secession" law.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER RICARDO MOLINA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of United Independent School District Board Member Ricardo Molina in Laredo, TX, in my Congressional District.

Ricardo Molina is a Laredo native and Parliamentarian of the United I.S.D. Board of Trustees. He believes serving on the Board involves keeping in mind the interests of the people in the community. "You have to look out for the taxpayers, students, and the people you serve." Molina's district is composed of the communities of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo.

Molina identifies with students of modest means who struggle for success. In his younger days, Molina was a member of his high school's chapter of the Distributive Education Club of America. "I know what hard work is. To succeed you have to make the best of your situation." Throughout his life Molina has worked in a variety of jobs. He has labored in oil fields, machine shops, and as a field hand picking cotton. Molina is the Director of the Rio Bravo and El Cenizo Community Centers.

As a Trustee, Molina helped initiate the district's dropout recovery program. The program allows students who have left school to pursue a General Equivalency Diploma. Molina also knows the importance of providing educational opportunities for adults. He worked for the establishment of GED and adult education programs in his community.

Molina says he joined the Board because he wanted to do something for the community. "We on the Board are like a family. We look out for the best opportunities for kids." Molina says United ISD has seen numerous changes in the last few years. "We've seen better curriculum, an improvement in our bilingual education program, and lower dropout and teen pregnancy rates." Molina says the schools in

this area are good facilities that are well built. "We've been able to add new wings and cafeterias to our many schools." He adds, "UISD is doing a great job of educating our children." He is particularly proud of the many accomplishments made by the schools in the south, especially all the great things happening at United South Magnet School. Molina says, "I will continue to work for the children and taxpayers of United ISD. Nothing is too good for the kids. I wish I could do more."

Molina, working with other board members, has been able to implement many positive changes for the benefit of children, parents, and taxpayers. These changes include increased security at elementary campuses and fighting the increase of gang involvement at schools. Gang Intervention Facilitators have been placed in high schools and their respective feeder campuses. Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors have been hired to fight drug use by students. Zero tolerance policies and the establishment of k-9 patrols help keep schools drug free.

In addition, one-third of the UISD school bus fleet has been replaced with new school busses. Two-thirds of the school bus fleet has been retrofitted with air conditioning. The second phase of construction has been started at L.B. Johnson High School. There will be additions to Alexander and United South High Schools. A replacement building for United High School will be built and a new middle school will be constructed to relieve overcrowding at Los Obispos Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize United Independent School District Board Member Ricardo Molina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ADVANCE DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2005

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, my good friend and co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, FRANK WOLF, introduced the Advance Democratic Values, Address Nondemocratic Countries, and Enhance (ADVANCE) Democracy Act of 2005. I am delighted to be the principal Democratic cosponsor of this bill. This landmark legislation, which we have been working on for more than a year, was developed in response to ideas that have emerged from outside the government, especially the thoughts and writings of Mark Palmer, who was the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from 1986 to 1989 during that country's amazingly swift transition from totalitarianism to freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Hungary, where I was born, faced the twin scourges of fascism and communism in the 20th century. Somehow I survived both of these soul-killing political systems and came to the United States, which was then a beacon of hope for those of us living in the darkness of Stalinist-controlled Central Europe.

As a Member of Congress in the intervening years, and as founding co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I have dedicated myself to the cause of human rights,